



Nachlass Robert Koch

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DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL

as/61/224

Boston, Mass., Feb. 25, 1909.

Herr Regierungs Rath,

Chre Prof. Dr. R.Koch,

Berlin.

My dear Sir:-

Will you allow me to call your attention to a statement in your address at the International Conference on Tuberculosis in Berlin, October 1902. In the lecture you say "In Boston, on the other hand, Councilman found the percentage of primary intestinal tuberculosis in 37.1% of cases". This conveys an entirely erroneous impression. I fully agree with you in the first place as to the rarity of primary intestinal tuberculosis. In these autopsies there were eighteen cases of tuberculosis of the mesenteric lymph nodes, and in seven they were affected with ^{out} tuberculosis elsewhere. In six of the eighteen cases there was intestinal tuberculosis, and in but two of the cases of intestinal tuberculosis was there any probability that the intestinal tuberculosis was primary. I do not think that tuberculosis of the mesenteric glands necessarily means primary intestinal tuberculosis, and least of all does it mean an infection with the bovine bacillus. The statistics in the article relate only to 35 cases of tuberculosis and are only important in showing the frequency of unsuspected tuberculosis in children.

I have the honor to be,

Very truly yours,

W. D. Councilman

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